

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02488 131721Z

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TAGS: ELAB, IT

SUBJ: INTENSE LABOR DISAGREEMENTS ON MORO GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC
PROGRAM

REF: ROME 2231

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) MET FEBRUARY 12 TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM BEING PROPOSED BY THE NEW MORO GOVERNMENT. THE SESSION PROVED A STORMY ONE, FINDING THE TOP CCU LEADERSHIP -- LAMA, STORTI AND VANNI, TOGETHER WITH SOME OTHER CONFEDERATION-LEVEL OFFICIALS -- UNCOMFORTABLY RANKED AGAINST THE ALMOST UNANIMOUS HOSTILITY OF THE LEADING NATIONAL UNION LEADERS. THE LATTER SEE NO VIRTUE WHATSOEVER IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS, INDEED, THE METAL WORKERS HAVE DECREED SOME 31 HOURS OF STRIKES BY THE END OF FEBRUARY AND THE CHEMICAL WORKERS HAVE ANNOUNCED 16 HOURS OF STRIKES DURING THE SAME PERIOD. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BOTH SECTORS ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING TO RENEW NATIONAL CONTRACTS WHICH EXPIRED AT YEAR-END.

2. WITH DIFFICULTY, THE CCU LEADERSHIP SUCCEEDED IN POSTPONING ANY DEFINITIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK IN MARCH. THE PRIMARY ARGUMENT THEY USED WAS THAT, IN SEEKING TO JUDGE THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM EVEN BEFORE IT IS PRE-
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PAGE 02 ROME 02488 131721Z

SENTED TO THE PARLIAMENT -- BEFORE, IN FACT, IT IS FULLY ARTICULATED

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WOULD MAKE THE UNIONS APPEAR TO ARROGATE TO THEMSELVES PARLIAMENTARY PREROGATIVES. FURTHERMORE, THEY ARGUED, WHILE THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE A VERY PROMISING ONE, IT IS THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE. THE SOLE APPARENT ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE IMMEDIATE NATIONAL ELECTIONS, WHICH

THE UNIONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY AND VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED.

3. COMMENT. CISL CHIEF BRUNO STORTI PLAYED A PARTICULARLY INTERESTING ROLE IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION IN THE HE BASICALLY WAS PLEADING ON BEHALF OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT BE AT LEAST GIVEN A CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT IT CAN ACCOMPLISH. ONLY VERY RECENTLY, AFTER YEARS OF ALIENATION, HAS STORTI BEGUN TO ACT LIKE A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AGAIN. VOLPE

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